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TUESDAY
MAY 5, 1953

Matt Goodman came to see me this morning to talk about his work in SRE, which he is anxious to continue.

E. had another engagement and I went to lunch with Van Starkenborgh at 10, Avenue Foch. The Italian Ambassador to NATO, Rossi-Longhi, was there. Unlike his Government, he seems opposed to the Community of Six ideas. Paul Claudel and Madame Claudel were amongst the others. He is well along in his eighties and is remarkably gay and alert. His has been a brilliant career in diplomacy and literature. I sat next to Nadège de Ganay. Although she is over sixty, she is remarkably pretty and does not seem to have changed in appearancein any respect since I first met her many years ago.

Christine Van Starkenborgh is going back shortly to see her mother, who is still living on Mount Vernon Place in Baltimore.

I went for a few minutes to an exhibition this afternoon at Boin Tabouret, where my new friend Monsieur Devoluy was showing a quasi-modern room. He is an American painter married to a French woman and in his shop on Rue Jacob he has for sale a great many interesting things designed by himself and usually made of combinations of old mahogany and brass.

I visited Georges Bidault at the Foreign Office at 5:30. He has not yet made up his mind as to how he will handle the European Political Community treaty at the meeting of Ministers next week. He discussed some of its provisions with me and thinks the text is on the whole a fine piece of work.

He said [redacted] he would not express an opinion on the chances of the present Government remaining in power but was sure ~~it would have great difficulties~~ when Parliament reconvenes. He is nettled by newspaper charges that he is a "bad European". He repeated what he has often said before, ~~that he is firmly~~ pledged to the various integration movements and believes in them, ~~but, in order~~

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to be successful, they must be handled at least in France through adroit political maneuvering which leads to a misinterpretation of his attitude.

He said [redacted] the Committees in both Chambers possessed many members hostile to the EDC but he hoped [redacted] the adverse Koch report would shortly be forthcoming and the air could be cleared when it was discussed. As regards the Government itself, there is no doubt of its intentions to press this matter. Nor could he conceive of any successor government in the near future which would not adopt the same attitude. As to timing, however, he felt that the set-back in Germany would have no effect on the action of the French Parliament but [redacted] the important obstacle to early consideration lay in the feeling amongst parliamentarians and the public here, as well as in certain Governmental circles, that the Western powers had not yet sufficiently explored the Russian tentatives toward a better understanding between themselves and ourselves. He himself is entirely distrustful and cynical of Russian intentions and has no confidence whatever that one could reach a settlement with them. However, he expected to send to the Department, provided he obtained clearance from his Cabinet, a suggestion that the Western powers ask the Soviets promptly for a four-power conference on disarmament. He thinks the Russian reaction to this will demonstrate to all concerned that they have no real desire to compose their differences with the West. Also, disarmament is the crux of any solution. He is [redacted] afraid that, otherwise, the Soviets will propose a four-power conference on Germany and thus make certain the postponement of action by any of the Six on the EDC. It would be easier to have Soviets do not agree to a reasonable disarmament, [redacted] EDC favorably acted upon by the French Parli[redacted]

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In any event, although he professed a personal desire to have France regain its leadership in connection with EDC, he thought the chances were poor of obtaining parliamentary action, whether favorable or unfavorable, before the summer recess unless his proposed disarmament move was agreed to, and unless the Germans and the French could reach an accord on the Saar.

We went to dinner tonight with Fred Anderson and his wife at Garches. The Caraman Chimays were there. Jacqueline said [redacted] the Cecilia concert at Reims had netted about 750,000 francs toward the restoration of the cathedral. Her own committee, composed of executives, [redacted]ners, workmen and others associated with the champagne industry, has raised about 9,000,000 francs for the same purpose. They are going up to their place in Normandie shortly for the dry fly fishing and I hope perhaps to spend a day with them there.

I was glad to see the Russell Dorrs again. He is leaving here shortly to take a position with the International Bank in Washington.

I had a talk with André de Staercke after dinner and he is particularly concerned about the very thing which Bidault had discussed with me this afternoon, namely the possibility that the Soviets would advocate a four-power conference on Germany. A couple of days ago an article appeared in the Paris Herald Tribune by the Alsops in the course of which they said [redacted] I had, according to an authoritative source, expressed myself in blackly pessimistic terms about the eventual possibility of French ratification of EDC to the American Delegation during the course of the NATO meeting. Actually, ~~what I had said to our Delegation now~~ seems to me in retrospect, especially in view of what afterwards transpired in Germany, over-optimistic. André told me that the day ~~after the article appeared~~ Van Zeeland telephoned him from Belgium to say [redacted] this view attributed to me was

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having an adverse effect on ratification by the Belgian Parliament and would he ascertain the truth or falsity of it. De Staercke replied that he did not need to consult me on the subject, that the American Government was firmly behind the enterprise, that he had talked to me recently and I was in no sense pessimistic.

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